



Heritage News

Discover Crowsnest Heritage

Issue #44

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Co-Editors

Barb Koch, Isabel Russell and Ken Allred

A Crowsnest Heritage Initiative Project

If interested in submitting an article, news piece, or update, please send it to: cnhnewsletter@shaw.ca

What's ON this Autumn?

Crowsnest Museum

Hours - 9:00-5:00, Monday to Saturday

- **Sept 24- Harvest of Memories Gala, MDM Community Centre, Bellevue** - Cocktails - 5:30 PM, Dinner - 6:30 PM, Entertainment - 9:00 PM (see poster on page 13)

Crowsnest Pass Public Art Gallery

Hours - Mondays - Thursday 10:00-3:00 - Friday - 10:00-1:00 and 2:00-4:00; Weekends and Holidays - 1:00-4:00

- **Sept 3 - Oct 2 - 'the alleyway' by Justina Smith**
- **Oct 1 - 'Spirit of Place, Earth, Wind, Sky & Water' - The Poetry of Michel J. Leeb - 2-4 PM**

Oct 2 - 'm is for music' - 2-4 PM

Oct 8 - Nov 5 - 'Vistas and Viewpoints' by Sophia Podryhula Shaw, Lynda Wheaton and Pam Wilman.
Closing Reception **Saturday, Nov 5 - 1-3 PM**

Oct 14 - M. Arty's Market - 2-8 PM

Oct 15 - M. Arty's Market - 10AM-4PM

Nov 12 - Dec 11 - 'Fluid Nature' by Mali Docktor - abstract solo show

Stone's Throw Cafe

Aug 22 - Oct 17 - 'Wisdom & Prudence' by Karen Paton

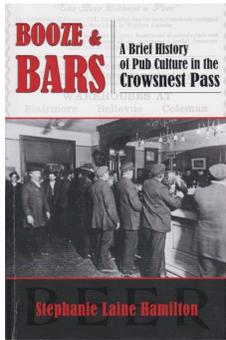
Oct 17 - Dec 12 - 'Pottery' by Heather Fletcher

Feature Article

Visions of Pub Culture in the Crowsnest Pass

Stephanie Laine Hamilton

In my experience, history is largely the result of wayward sources coming together in a singular form. The new book, *Booze & Bars: A Brief History of Pub Culture in the Crowsnest Pass*, (see book review - page 9) is precisely this—an edited accumulation of images and words related by subject matter. For the purposes of *Heritage News*, the author (me) has isolated several images found in the book and further considers where they came from and how they ended up being included in the book. Every picture tells all kinds of tales. I've spent time exploring the collections in the Crowsnest Museum and Archives for a variety of reasons over the years. Many of my very favorite images of the Crowsnest Pass appear in the pages of *Booze & Bars*, and I would like to tell you a bit more about a few of them.



Work with the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre sent me to spend time in the Museum Archives in 2011/12 to pinpoint locations of images for panel redevelopment at Leitch Collieries Provincial Historic Site. Another of my favorite images from that project is CM-PA-24-03, an image of a train travelling through Passburg, and it also appears here, as well as in *Booze & Bars*. The Kerr Collections were in



Steam locomotive travelling through Passburg

the process of being processed at the Museum, which meant going through about eight boxes full of envelopes of images individually to find what you were looking for. I found what I was looking for for the Leitch project (i.e. p. 17), but I also found quite a few others that have been used in subsequent projects related to the Hillcrest Mine Disaster Centennial (p. 16) as well as for the book (p. 64).

I first came across CM-FR-24-15 while compiling images to commemorate the Frank Slide's 110th Anniversary in 2013. There are several images of the railway line being rebuilt through the Slide by 1,100 men in 1903, and they are nothing short of incredible. The scale, like the rockslide, is massive. In one image, the



Rebuilding the railway through the Frank Slide – 1903

men look like ants walking along the railway ties in the rocks. In another, the train barely squeezes through the rocks alongside the newly rebuilt Crowsnest Line. In less than three weeks, the rail line that was destroyed by the Frank Slide on April 29th 1903 was entirely rebuilt. This image (here, and on p. 181 in *Booze & Bars*) reverberates triumph in the completion of such a massive

undertaking to me somehow. I also enjoy its perspective. This is one of my favourite photos of the Frank Slide - choosing one isn't an easy feat, because there are many amazing images to choose from.

What never, ever ceases to amaze me about the Museum is the plethora of things you just happen to come across behind the closed doors of the archives, collections, and storage spaces—the artefacts in particular. One day I came across a crate identified as having belonged to prominent Bellevue and

Hillcrest contractor Fred Wolstenholme who built the Bellevue Inn in 1921. I took a picture of it with my iPhone that was in my back pocket (SLH #3082). A similar story holds true regarding the handrail original to the time when Emilio Picariello owned the Alberta Hotel in Blairmore. Emperor Pic's handrail (p. 98) and chair (p. 166) are part of the collection at the Crowsnest Museum and are currently on display there.

Some other themes present themselves in the pages of *Booze & Bars*. You can keep an eye out for them as you make your way through it. One of these is the appearance of puppy dogs in the images, they turn up all over the place - on the street (p. 50), at the parade (p. 53), and poking out from behind a guy's leg (p. 19). Without a doubt though, my favorite dog shots are when they appear in teams out in front of the Hillcrest Miner's Club (p. 157) and the Bellevue Inn (p. 152). Other animals that can be found in the pages of *Booze & Bars*

include sheep (p. 90) and horses (i.e. p. 109; 129; 134). This is only one of several trends that can be noted as one makes their way through *Booze & Bars*. Hint: Keep an eye out for photo bombers!

Stephanie Laine Hamilton is the author of Booze & Bars - A Brief History of Pub Culture in the Crowsnest Pass. (see book review by Barb Koch on page 9)



**Crate belonging to Fred Wolstenholme
- Bellevue Contractor**

Letter from Temperance Advocate

(The following is a historical re-creation of a letter that may have been written by Mrs. Charlotte Walker in response to the historical debate that took place at the launch event for the 2016 Doors Open and Heritage Festival. The debate and this letter are an example of arguments that may have been presented in the years prior to prohibition in Alberta.)

The debate was moderated by Myriah Sagrefena with debaters Lyndsay Tymchyna (Mrs. Sparks) and Jenise Gendre (Mrs. Walker). All three are from the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre.

To the Ladies and Gentleman of the magnificent Crowsnest Pass,

Many of you, no doubt, attended the recent temperance debate in our town. I must admit, I was astonished to find that most of those who attended seemed to side with my opponent Mrs. Ellen Sparks. It is with heavy heart in which I realized there is much work to do to rid this town of the scourge that is alcohol. So to the people of this town I humbly write to you, in what may be a vain effort, to convince you of the evils of the liquor trade.



Mrs. Ellen Sparks vs. Mrs Charlotte Walker engaged in a Temperance Debate at the Greenhill Hotel

The only way to successfully combat the nefarious nature of alcohol is to institute national constitutional prohibition. The argument put forth by Mrs. Sparks suggested that by instituting prohibition we, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), were trying to prevent citizens from having a good time. To this I must say that it shows the poor state of affairs if the demon rum is the only outlet for a good time. Imagine how productive our society would be if our men were not spending their nights in the barroom in search of a "good time". Those decrepit hovels do nothing but corrupt impressionable

young men; not to mention the unsanitary conditions they promote. If the barrooms are closed, it would eliminate the ever present invitation to walk through their doors and thus the temptation of the drink would be gone.

All of society will benefit from the prohibition of intoxicating spirits. The elimination of alcohol will remove preventable causes of poverty, crime, tuberculosis, the diseases of middle life, unhappy homes and financial depression. Prohibition will promote better national health, children will be born under better conditions, homes will be better and the mother will be delivered from the fear of the drunken husband. How can we turn a blind eye to the benefits prohibition brings?

I must remind you that alcohol degrades the very principles our great nation was founded upon and casts a shadow of despair across our fair land. Crime and mischievous behaviour walk hand in hand with the devil of intoxicating spirits. A drinker has no choice but to turn to crime to support his disgusting habit. It is neither right, nor political, for the government to sanction any action that corrupts social habits, destroys health, and promotes criminal activity. Therefore, to protect the very laws and principles of our great Dominion, we must institute national constitutional prohibition.

We are not looking to punish the many for the actions of the few as was insinuated by Mrs. Sparks. If access to alcohol was prohibited the few would evolve into productive members of society. Intoxicating spirits are a disease and the prohibition of those spirits is the cure.

In closing, I can only hope that you can see reason and not let the temptation of alcohol corrupt your good judgment. Do not allow the evils of alcohol to destroy your town and your families as it has done in countless locations throughout our Dominion and the United States. I beseech you to follow the temperate path for the benefit of everyone and to realize the error of Mrs. Sparks' arguments. She is, after all, wife of a hotel proprietor and in my opinion nothing but a floozie.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Charlotte Walker

Poetry Corner

Emperor Pic

K. Roome

Emperor Pic, The Bottle King.
For money he would do anything.
He collected empties for just pennies.
Pennies became dimes, then dollars
with ease.
Prohibition then came to town.
The number of empties then went
down.
He thought, what is the worth of an
empty
If I clean it then fill it with whiskey?
So he robbed Alberta without a
bandana.
He filled his empties in B.C. and
Montana.
He sold his bootleg whiskey in The
Pass.
It could be had, keg, bottle or glass.
It sold so well he could not get enough.
So he had it shipped in sacks of flour
and stuff.
The railway brought in food stuffs for
The Alberta Hotel
They did not know they carried
whiskey as well.
He needed something to work as a
funnel.
So the thirsty miners dug him a tunnel.
His legal goods crossed the street by
wagon and horse
While the whiskey flowed under the
street of course.
His money came in so easily this way.
He often gave the food away.
The sides of pork that hid bottles today,
Fed the injured miner's families next
day.
To get the whiskey even faster.
He bought McLaughlin 6's, nothing
passed her.
His cars outran the Alberta Provincial
Police.
The A.P.P. would do anything for the
Rum running to cease.

Pic's son Steve ran a road block like his
old man.
Constable Lawson shot him in the hand.
Wounded, Steve drove to Michel.
Pic heard Steve had been killed, now
there'd be Hell.
Pic and Filumena drove to Coleman.
They stopped at the Police station
looking for Lawson.
Filumena was hidden in the back seat.
She waited for Constable Lawson and
Pic to meet.
Constable Lawson approached the car,
He hoped Pic wouldn't take things too
far.
He explained he had not done Steve
much harm.
Pic raised a pistol, Lawson grabbed his
arm.
As they struggled, gunshots came from
the car.
Constable Lawson struggled and fell to
the street.
Pic and Filumena remained in their
seats.
They fled to Blairmore, they were soon
arrested.
The savageness of the crime was
attested.
Court records showed Pic's gun was a
thirty-two.
The Doctor's testimony said that won't
do.
For the pistol that sealed Lawson's fate,
Was the pistol Filomena held, a thirty-
eight.
Steve Piciarello lived, Constable
Lawson died.
Pic and Filumena waited for the court
to decide.
The jury decided justice be danged.
They sentenced Emperor Pic and
Filumena be hanged.
In spite of some doubt
On May 2, 1923, the sentence was
carried out.

POETRY CORNER

Beers

by Motown Writer

With so many flavors
in dark or light
you'll find a few brands
that taste just right

With kegs, draft and tap
and even microbrew
there's so many choices
try more then just a few

An iced cold beer
no doubt, is such a winner
there's even been nights
that's all I've had for dinner

Beer loosens inhibitions
and releases your fear
but sometimes too much
can make you unclear

So drink in moderation
when you drive and have to bail
because they won't serve you beer
if you get caught and go to jail!

100 YEARS AGO 1916

February 4, 1916 - Lieutenant-Colonel Lyon is given authorization to organize and command a battalion of infantry "192nd Overseas Battalion, C.E.F.", with its headquarters at Blairmore.

April 7, 1916 - The newspaper "*The Blairmore Enterprise*" advertises the upcoming live production of the war drama "The White Feather". The venue is the Blairmore Opera House, the time, April 20, 1916, and the admission price for an adult is either 75 cents or a dollar or 25 cents for a child.

April 19, 1916 - Women are given the right to vote in the province.

July 1, 1916 - Prohibition becomes law in Alberta

Since 1901 the Mounties maintained a presence in the Crowsnest Pass but fearing trouble from "enemy alien" ethnic groups, Ottawa instructs police to set up a permanent detachment in Blairmore, with 1 inspector, 1 sergeant and 2 constables.

Archie McLeod is appointed Chief of Police and paid \$60.00 a month plus commissions.

The Town of Blairmore accepts an offer from West Canadian Collieries to supply power to the town at 12 cents per hour. A meter system is put into place after a few months because the flat rate wasn't realistic. A Mr. Walker is paid a \$25.00 honorarium to turn the light pole switches off in the morning and on at night.

Sources:

Bellevue Times, Feb. 4/1916

The Blairmore Enterprise, April 7, 1916

<www.crowsnest-highway.ca> (Crowsnest Pass, Alberta: History) *Crowsnest and its People*

BOOK REVIEW

Booze & Bars A Brief History of Pub Culture in the Crowsnest Pass

By Stephanie Laine Hamilton

A tour in a book. Definitely more than a guidebook or a glorified pamphlet that accompanies a historical walking tour.

Booze and Bars includes more than brief histories and detailed descriptions of churches, bars, hotels, inns, clubs and Royal Canadian Legion branches. It is rich with architectural details and peppered with interesting facts, not only about the buildings themselves but liquor laws as well, such as...

- When were women allowed to drink in public on their own, in “mixed company” in Alberta? What businesses generally owned the hotels in this province until the 1940’s?
- What was the original building that now houses the Rum Runner restaurant and bar in Coleman?
- What tavern was so popular that it agreed to close its bar down between 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. so men would go home to their wives and families for supper?

- Did those tunnels that ran under the street from the Alberta Hotel for storing and transporting illegal liquor actually exist?
- Which local hotel was dismantled and moved to another Alberta town and why did the new owners keep the original name for many years later?
- Which Legion organization is the oldest in Alberta? What happened to its safe?
- What, (and why) are Smokers?

In orderly, logical progression, the author leads us through the communities of Coleman, Blairmore, Frank, Bellevue and Hillcrest, to explore these “pubs”. Detailed maps for further reference and clarity show the locations described.

This book is just bursting with photographs, clear, well-preserved archival pictures, (many by the photographer Thomas Gushul) and current shots of these buildings. Rounding it out are photos of business ads, artifacts (glassware, chairs) and ads for local breweries. It is a fascinating, effortless, enjoyable read.

Booze and Bars is available for purchase at the Crowsnest Museum.

Barb Koch

SIGNS OF THE CROWNEST PASS

The Crowsnest Heritage Initiative has installed four information kiosks, about fifty signs and over a hundred building plaques, each revealing a small piece of our diverse history.

Discover Crowsnest Heritage

Grand Union Hotel



The first Grand Union Hotel was built in 1904 as a two-storey wood structure. It was doubled in width in 1912 and included a pool room on the main floor and a bowling alley in the basement.

The Calgary Brewing Company acquired the hotel from the Ranchman's Trust Company in 1921, replacing it in 1924 with the present brick building. Ownership remained with Calgary Brewing or a subsidiary until 1963.

Over the years, owners and managers of the Grand Union have been strong supporters of local sports teams, including the Coleman Grands hockey club in the 1940s.

Grand Union Hotel (right), ca. 1920. (Crowsnest Museum Archives)

Discover Crowsnest Heritage

Greenhill Hotel



The Greenhill Hotel, named after West Canadian Collieries' nearby Greenhill Mine, was another major construction project in the company-owned West Townsite. The builder was W. Pettifor of Calgary, using the fireproof hollow red clay blocks common in many WCC buildings of the time. After its completion in late 1921, the Greenhill was leased and opened in February 1922.

Although the hotel provided rooms for miners, its best rooms were reserved for wealthier clients and visiting WCC shareholders. As the newest establishment in town, the Greenhill Hotel was 'the' place to stay; guests have included Queen Maria of Romania and boxer 'Sugar' Ray Robinson. The bar on the main floor served miners and managers alike.

Greenhill Hotel ca. 1925 (Crowsnest Museum collection)

Discover Crowsnest Heritage

Alberta Hotel



Built in 1901, the Alberta Hotel was purchased by Abraham A. Sparks in 1902. In 1912 the entire building was moved to the west to allow for a new addition on the street corner. Its most famous owner was Emilio "Emperor Pick" Picariello who turned to run-running during Prohibition and was hanged along with Florence Losandro in 1923 for the murder of Cst. Stephen Lawson.

Picariello allowed the hotel to be used as an isolation hospital during the Spanish Influenza pandemic of 1918. In 1927 the hotel was purchased from Picariello's widow by Lance Morgan, the owner of Crow's Nest Pass Motors. Morgan wanted to replace it with a service station, but the hard times of the Great Depression saved the hotel.

During major restoration in 2002, workers found entrances to underground rooms used for the secret storage of alcohol during Prohibition.

Alberta Hotel ca. 1915 (Crowsnest Museum collection)

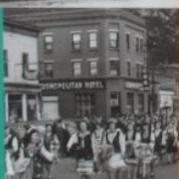
Discover Crowsnest Heritage

The 'Cos'



Henry Howard held the first individual land title in Blairmore, and built one of its first hotels in 1900 or 1901. The Cosmopolitan was a two-storey wooden structure with attic dormers, and a small annex housing the Cosmopolitan Bar was soon added on the east side. In 1911 the Cosmopolitan Hotel was purchased by Abraham Sparks, who also operated the Alberta Hotel. The following year fire consumed the Cos and other buildings to the east. Sparks replaced it with a modern hotel of fireproof brick, including another one-storey annex occupied by the Home Bank but which was later used again as a bar.

In 1959 the name was changed to the Pass Hotel. The interior was badly damaged by fire in 1982, and after restoration it returned to its historic name: The Cosmopolitan Hotel.



(Crowsnest Museum collection)

These building plaques are located at the locations of the respective hotels. The Alberta Hotel is no longer operating as a hotel but is located at the NW corner of 20 Avenue & 129 Street in Blairmore.

Historical Venues in Southern Alberta



• **CROWSNEST MUSEUM** - 7701 18th Ave. Coleman. 403-563-5434

• As well as exhibits on coal mining in the Crow's Nest Pass, there are galleries on Pass life in the early 1900s, natural history, the military, and on Emperor Pic and rum-running. There is a gift shop near the entrance. For tours and educational programs: Contact: cnmuseum@shaw.ca. Open Monday to Saturday, 9 am - 5 pm. Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (6-16) \$6, Under 6 free, Families \$24.

THE FRANK SLIDE INTERPRETIVE CENTRE - North off Hwy 3 at Frank, Crow's Nest Pass 403-562-7388



The Frank Slide Interpretive Centre highlights the rich heritage of the Crow's Nest Pass amid the breathtaking beauty of the Canadian Rockies. The Centre is open all year and visitors are greeted by friendly, knowledgeable staff who share the fascinating stories of the Frank Slide through dynamic interpretive programs and presentations. State-of-the-art interactive displays and exhibits throughout the Centre focus on the infamous Frank Slide of 1903 - Canada's deadliest rockslide. Open year round 10:00 am to 5:00 pm (9 am to 6 pm July 1-Labour Day) Adults \$13, Seniors (65+) \$11, Youth (7-17) \$9, 6 and under free, Families \$35.



• **KOOTENAI BROWN PIONEER VILLAGE** - 1037 Bev McLachlin Dr., Pincher Creek. 403-627-3684

• Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village is an outdoor heritage facility. Visitors are able to walk directly into any of the historic buildings and view the artifacts, which are displayed openly. The open concept and self-guided museum means you are also free to wander through six acres of beautiful gardens, including a pond and waterfall (summer) and large community garden area.

- Established in 1966, the Museum consists of 19 buildings housing over 18,000 artifacts from southern Alberta. The legendary George "Kootenai" Brown lived in southern Alberta and his cabin and some of his possessions form part of the Museum's exhibits. Open: daily from 10 am to 6 pm until Labour Day, then 10 am to 4:30, Monday to Friday. Adults/Seniors \$10, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free.

• **HEAD-SMASHED-IN BUFFALO JUMP (UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE)** - Hwy 785

403-553-2731

Hikes to the Drive Lanes 10:30—3 pm.



• Experience authentic First Nations culture in the open air of our plaza. Our best native dancers perform to the beat of Blackfoot drumming and singing. Hear stories of how drumming and dancing connect us with the ancient buffalo

hunting culture

- Along with its displays, the interpretive centre has audio-visual presentations, a cafeteria featuring bison burgers, a gift shop filled with First Nations handicrafts, and hosts tour groups and runs educational programs. Open daily 9 am to 5 pm until Labour Day, then 10 am to 5 pm. Contact: info@head-smashed-in.com. Admission: Adults \$15, Seniors (65+) \$13, Youth (7-17) \$10, 6 and under free, Families \$40.



•**GALT MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES** - 502 1st St. S., Lethbridge
1-866-320-3898
Open 10:00 - 5:00 Mon-Sat; 10:00 - 9:00 Thursdays; 1:00 - 5:00 Sundays & holidays; Adults \$6, Seniors (60+) \$5, Youth (7-17) \$3, children free, families \$15.



•**REMINGTON CARRIAGE MUSEUM** - 623 Main St. Cardston. 403-653-5139
•The Museum has the largest collection of horse-drawn vehicles in North America with over 240 carriages, wagons and sleighs. The 63,000 square foot facility features video displays, a fire hall, a carriage factory, a restoration shop, a working stable, carriage rides, carriage rentals, a restaurant and a gift shop. There are free guided tours. Group tours and educational tours are offered. Open year round 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (9 am to 5 pm July 1- August 31). Adults \$13, Seniors (65+) \$11, Youth (7-17) \$9, 6 and under free, Families \$35.



•**WRITING-ON-STONE** - Hwy 4 South from Lethbridge. Then Hwy 500 West. Then South on Range Road 130A
•Open year round for camping. No reservations are necessary if you wish to use a camp site at the park in the winter. Fees range from \$26 to \$33 a day. Writing-on-Stone / Áísínai'pi is a sacred landscape. The spectacular Milk River valley contains the largest concentration of First Nation petroglyphs (rock carvings) and pictographs (rock paintings) on the great plains of North America.

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<http://www.crownsnestheritage.ca/>

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Harvest of Memories



Fall Gala &
Fundraiser



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2016

THE CROWSNEST HISTORICAL SOCIETY WELCOMES YOU TO THE MOST EXCITING EVENT OF THE FALL, AND ITS BIGGEST ANNUAL FUNDRAISER: THE HARVEST OF MEMORIES GALA. THIS SPECIAL EVENT FEATURES THE MUSICAL TALENTS OF SHANE PAINTER AND THE BAND PIC & LAWSON, LIVE AND SILENT AUCTIONS, AND GOURMET CATERING BY COUNTRY ENCOUNTERS. ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE OPERATIONS OF THE CROWSNEST MUSEUM.

RESERVE YOUR TABLE TODAY. \$40/PERSON, \$75/COUPLE, \$280/PRIVATE TABLE, ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT CROWSNEST MUSEUM, AND SCOTIABANK

5:30 COCKTAILS, 6:30 DINNER
ENTERTAINMENT 9-LATE
MEM COMMUNITY CENTER

CONTACT 403-563-5434
WWW.CROWSNESTMUSEUM.CA
CNSMUSEUM@SHAW.CA



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